

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 DODE-00 SS-15 NSC-10 ACDA-19 H-03 EB-11 IO-13

OMB-01 AEC-11 SCI-06 SCEM-02 RSR-01 /172 W

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R 091643Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6769

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 11413

DEPARTMENT PASS TREASURY AND DEFENSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, GW

SUBJECT: BURDENSHARING/OFFSET

1. SUMMARY: WE HAVE DISCUSSED TODAY NATO BURDEN-

SHARING INITIATIVE IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS

WITH NATO SECTION AND ECONOMIC POLICY SECTION OF

FOREIGN OFFICE AND REITERATED POINTS MADE IN

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AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD'S AUGUST 1 NAC PRESENTATION

AND STATE 150394. FOREIGN OFFICE REACTION WAS RELATIVELY PESSIMISTIC ON BURDENSHARING, BUT MORE FORTHCOMING ON BILATERAL OFFSET. END SUMMARY

2. HARTMANN (DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NATO DESK) TOLD US THAT AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD'S NATO PRESENTATION HAD ARRIVED TWO DAYS AGO IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND THAT IT WAS STILL TOO EARLY TO OFFER MORE THAN PRELIMINARY COMMENTS ABOUT THE BURDENSHARING PROPOSAL. WITH THIS QUALIFICATION, HE SAID THAT THE FRG INTENDED TO CONCLUDE A FULLY SATISFACTORY OFFSET AGREEMENT WITH US, BUT SAID HE HAD SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF A SUCCESSFUL BURDENSHARING PROPOSAL IN NATO. US VIEWS ABOUT A GREATER BURDENSHARING EFFORT AMONG EUROPEAN ALLIES IS WIDELY UNDERSTOOD THROUGHOUT THE ALLIANCE, AND NATO MEMBERS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY MAKE AN EFFORT TO COME TO TERMS WITH THE PROBLEM. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT HE KNEW OF NO COUNTRY WHICH, AT LEAST AT THE PRESENT TIME, IS FORTHCOMING IN ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD BURDENSHARING INITIATIVE, AND FOR THIS REASON, HE QUESTIONED WHETHER THE RESULTS OF NATO CONSIDERATIONS WOULD BE ENOUGH TO HEAD OFF GROWING CONGRESSIONAL DEMANDS FOR GREATER BURDENSHARING IN THE ALLIANCE.

3. FOREIGN OFFICE ECONOMIC POLICY SECTION NOTED OUR POINTS ON BURDENSHARING, BUT DID NOT GIVE US ANY REACTION TO THEM. FOREIGN OFFICE INDICATED THAT INTERNAL INTRA-MINISTERIAL WORK ON OFFSET WAS CONTINUING AND THAT GERMAN FEDERAL SECURITY COUNCIL WAS EXPECTED TO AGREE ON BASIC OFFSET NEGOTIATING INSTRUCTIONS AT ITS SEPTEMBER 10 MEETING. AMBASSADOR HERMES WAS PREPARED TO MEET UNDER SECRETARY CASEY ANYTIME AFTER THAT DATE. FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL ASSUMES THAT FIRST INFORMAL CASEY/HERMES DISCUSSION WILL TAKE PLACE AT TIME OF NAIROBI IMF MEETING WHICH BOTH WILL BE ATTENDING AND THAT FIRST FORMAL NEGOTIATING SESSION WILL BE IN FIRST HALF OF OCTOBER EITHER

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INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6770

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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IN WASHINGTON OR BONN (THEY EXPRESSED NO PREFERENCE AS TO LOCATION).

4. IN RESPONSE TO OUR INFORMAL PROBING AS TO LIKELY GERMAN POSITION ON DETAILS OF OFFSET, FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS GAVE FOLLOWING INDICATIONS:

(A) IT NOW LOOKS AS IF GERMAN MILITARY PROCUREMENT WILL BE SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER THAN THEY

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HAD PREVIOUSLY EXPECTED, POSSIBLY UP TO THE LEVEL

OF THE LAST AGREEMENT.

(B) GERMANS EXPECT THE BARRACKS REHABILITATION

PROGRAM TO BE CONTINUED AND PERHAPS SOMEWHAT EXTENDED.

(C) GERMANS EXPECT THAT "SOMETHING CAN BE
DONE" ON RHINE/MAIN AIRPORT CHARGES AND LAND TAXES.

(D) GERMANS EXPECT THAT ONLY SOME VERY MINOR
ITEMS ON SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION MIGHT BE INCLUDED
IN OFFSET WHICH DO NOT INVOLVE VERY MUCH MONEY AND
INVOLVE PROJECTS ON WHICH THERE ALREADY NOW IS SOME
GERMAN/AMERICAN COOPERATION AND A GERMAN BUDGET
ALLOCATION. THEY DID NOT FORESEE THE FINANCE MINISTRY
AGREEING TO ALLOCATE ADDITIONAL MONEY TO GERMAN
SCIENCE BUDGET IN ORDER TO ENGAGE IN "OFFSET"
PROJECTS. THEY RULED OUT AS COMPLETELY IMPOSSIBLE
ANY GERMAN PARTICIPATION UNDER THE OFFSET IN A
NEW US/GERMAN URANIUM ENRICHMENT FACILITY. FOREIGN
OFFICE OFFICIALS MENTIONED THAT FRG WOULD BE VERY
MUCH INTERESTED IN INCLUDING IN OFFSET GERMAN
PURCHASES OF ENRICHED URANIUM NOW BEING NEGOTIATED
BY NUKEM WITH THE USAEC OUTSIDE OF THE OFFSET
FRAMEWORK.

HILLENBRAND

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